

It has become not a bully pulpit, but a pulpit of political correctness. He is on a hot seat. If President Clinton withdraws this nomination, then he is in trouble, and how is anybody going to get through the nomination process after this?

Put it back where it belongs, in the Assistant Secretary of Health. Solves problems for everybody.

#### SUPPORT THE INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the fifth year in a row that the productivity of the American worker has increased. But despite this good news, most American workers have had no real increase in earnings in over 15 years.

In the last Congress, we gave a tax cut the help those Americans who were working hard but failing behind. Now, President Clinton has endorsed a small increase in the minimum wage to reward Americans who choose work, not welfare.

At the current minimum wage—just \$4.25 an hour—someone working day-in and day-out would bring home just \$8,500 a year. A family of four trying to live on this wage—just \$700 a month—would find it nearly impossible to pay the rent, buy groceries, or purchase clothes for school. If the minimum wage is increased by just 90 cents over 2 years—we can provide working Americans with additional rewards for their work.

And while we are at it, let's arbitrate an end to the baseball strike. Democrats are worried about minimum wage workers selling peanuts in the bleachers—not about multi-millionaire ball-players and owners who can afford to sit out another season.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO HARD- WORKING CONTRACT WITH AMERICA SUPPORTERS

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is 36 days ago the 104th Congress convened, and on opening day we passed nine major reforms. We turned around the way this place does business by eliminating committees and making this place more accountable and deliberative in many ways. We passed the Congressional Accountability Act. In the last 4 weeks we have passed legislation that makes it much tougher to impose unfunded mandates on States, the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, line item veto authority for the President, which is what he has asked for, and we are now in the midst of working on a wide range of legislation which has been discussed for years that will finally focus a little more attention on the victim than the perpetrator.

It seems to me that, if we look at what is talking place over the past few weeks, we clearly have been able to proceed effectively in a bipartisan way, gaining support from Democrats for these Republican initiatives in the Contract With America, and I would simply like to extend congratulations to those who have worked so hard to make it happen.

#### THE SWEETHEART DEAL OF THE CENTURY

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Times has an article that provides a fascinating window on how the special interests and policy are intertwined in this Republican Congress.

Now the Speaker has mounted a consistent attack on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and at times he has even called for funding to be reduced to zero. Today we find out that the Speaker's close friend and ally, Vin Weber, who has, according to the Times, and I quote, frequently been in the Speaker's office the past 6 weeks, often working in his shirt sleeves, has signed a \$250,000 contract with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and guess what the contract was for? To plot out the future for the Corporation.

In other words, in one room Mr. Weber was engaged in discussions with the Speaker on how to do away with the Corporation, and in the other room he is telling the Corporation that for a cool quarter of a million dollars he can help salvage what the Speaker is trying to do away with.

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Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we are less than 1 week away from Valentine's Day because this is the sweetheart deal of the century.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). This will conclude the 1-minutes for the morning, and the Chair will take the liberty at this time of recognizing the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. THORNTON] for the purpose of making an announcement.

#### THE LATE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 1 minute in order to make an announcement of interest to the Members of this institution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to make an announcement that is sad, not only to the Members of this institution but to all those who love freedom throughout the world.

This morning, at 89 years of age, with his wife Harriet at his side, Senator J. William Fulbright died. Our condolences and thoughts are with his family.

Senator Fulbright came to this House in an election in 1942 and as a freshman Member of this House introduced and passed the Fulbright resolution, which was the foundation and the architecture for the postwar peace effort. Moving from this House to the Senate, he compiled an extraordinary career. Throughout the world Fulbright scholars will be in mourning today as the man who gave his name to the greatest exchange of students in the history of the world departs from the world.

He never lost confidence in America. He will be remembered as one of our Nation's greatest statesmen, a leader, not a follower, who significantly influenced the course of human events.

Senator Fulbright was not afraid to challenge the conventional wisdom. We will miss his courage, his intellect, his competence, and his character.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a service in Washington, DC, as well as at the University of Arkansas, whose College of Arts and Sciences bears the Senator's name, and in due course there will be an opportunity for a special order in this body for all those who knew and revered Senator J. William Fulbright.

#### VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 63 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 63

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 667) to control crime by incarcerating violent criminals. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(1)(2)(B) or clause 2(1)(6) of rule XI are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule for a period not to exceed ten hours. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XCI or clause